



# DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

## Team Release

### Qualifying Report

#### 2021/4/3 Rd-1 FUJI Speedway

Weather : Cloudy Temperature : 20°C 18cars

At Fuji Speedway, where Yamamoto/ DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING had won the 2020 Drivers' Championship last December, 2021 Super Formula kicks off. The two cars of DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING have been in good condition since the two official tests in March. Makino is still regulating his physical condition and Ukyou Sasahara drives Car #6 instead as well as the official tests. Unlike 2020 Super Formula which held Qualifying and Race the same day as a preventive measure against COVID-19, this season, it is returned to the original two-day format, Qualifying on Saturday and Race on Sunday.

As soon as knock-out QF1 began, Fukuzumi in GrpA warmed his car and did a check-run. With less than 6min remaining, he went on-track with new tires. He moved on to QF2 in second place.

Sasahara in GrpB also did a check-run on starting of QF1, and went on-track in the last 6min. He recorded the fourth fastest time in his third attack to QF2.

In the following QF2, adjusting the set-up slightly, the both drivers went on-track as soon as the course opened. They were planning to attack after a check-run, however, they were caught in traffic of warming-up cars and had to attack without warming their tires enough. They barely made it through QF3 with Sasahara in 6th and Fukuzumi in 7th.

In QF3, the both drivers changed the set-up a little based on the results from QF2, and went for an attack. Even though Sasahara was in second on attacking, a rival soon recorded faster time. Sasahara became 3rd earning precious one point. Fukuzumi finished QF in 4th behind Sasahara.

#5: Nirei Fukuzumi Position 4th (QF1 GrpA 2nd, QF2 7th, QF3 4th) 4th among Honda users

I had a good feeling about my car, but something was missing for a pole position. My team did a good job to recover the performance, so the 4th place is certainly not what we expected.

It will be a race in the rain tomorrow. Sasahara and I will start from the second row, so we should get off to a hot start to end up on the podium together. Anyway, I will give my all.



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#6: Ukyou Sasahara Position 3rd (QF1 GrpB 4th, QF2 6th, QF3 3rd) 3rd among Honda users  
I had been trying a lot of things since Free Practice for preparation.  
The set-up I checked during QF1 didn't produce good results, but the adjustments in QF2 and 3 worked well. I appreciate the team's total capabilities.  
I have a good chance of winning by starting from the second row.  
I will go forward believing in myself and the team, and I'm sure it will bring a good result.



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## **Race Report**

### **2021/4/4 Rd-1 FUJI Speedway**

Weather: cloudy Temperature: 17°C, 18cars

Audience: 7,800/3<sup>rd</sup> (Sat.) 11,300/4<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) 19,100 total

On Apr.4, the day of the 2021 season opener at Fuji Speedway, it became overcast and chilly in the afternoon, although the clear sky peeked out sometimes in the morning. A strong tail wind was blowing above Main Straight. Rain was forecasted around 3pm.

Both Sasahara in the 3rd grid and Fukuzumi in the 4th grid started from the second row. Fukuzumi made an excellent start and came on the side of the second car in First Corner. He could not overtake, just raised up one position to the 3rd. Sasahara finished the opening lap in 4th behind Sasahara.

They both gradually closed on the second driver, shortening their own best times. Fukuzumi got really close to Oyu in second on Lap21 and finally overtook him on Lap24 to become second.

Sasahara who were watching for an opportunity behind them also overtook Oyu on Lap25 to be 3rd. Then, it started raining.

To prevent Oyu who changed tires on Lap25 from preceding, Fukuzumi made a pit-stop at the end of Lap28 and Sasahara did on the next lap.

At this timing, the surface condition became officially 'wet' .

The both drivers succeeded to return to the course in front of Oyu after their tire change. However, the surface temperature fell due to the rain, and because it took time to warm up the tires, they dropped the positions.

In the latter half of the race, Fuzumi chased the leader at his best pace in spite of the wet surface, but in vain. He finished the opener in third, mounting the podium. On the other hand, Sasahara won the battle against Yamamoto and became 5th to get points.



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#5: Nirei Fukuzumi Position 3rd (3rd among Honda users)

This season, my team prepared the car with the ace number #5 for me, and I felt a lot of pressure. During the race, I had some trouble balancing the car, and the rain started at the wrong timing, so I couldn't keep the second position.

Later, I drove at a good pace. I am disappointed that I couldn't bring out my best all the more because I could see the leader ahead especially in the last few laps. I am glad I stood on the podium and got the points, so I will make good use of this result for the next race to aim for the higher.

#6: Ukyou Sasahara Position 5th (4th among Honda users)

I dropped one position at the start, but I was planning to keep my pace considering the climate and the tires until I had a chance to overtake.

I made a pit-stop when I overtook Oyu and became third, however, because of time loss during pit work and start of rain, I dropped my position again.

My car was in good balance during the race, so I could bring some points home in 5th place. I think my car and I did our best all through the weekend.